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The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, *April* 9. 1695

Queſt. 1. *From whom did* Geneva *receive the honour of having the Eagle and two heads admitted into its Arms.*

Anſw. From the Emperour *Charlemaign*, when it was under his power, altho it coſt them dear enough, being obliged a little after, to grant many lands to the Biſhops, as well as an annual contribution towards the maintainance of the *Cathedral.*

Queſt. 2. *In one of your Mercuries I obſerve, that you prefer a Lottery, call'd,* The Unparallel'd Adventure, *before any others. I have put a conſiderable Sum into another already, but finding that you moſt approve of the* Unparallel'd Adventure, *I have an Inclination to venture ſome money therein; if I can be ſatisfy'd by you, wherein the excellency of it lies, I will with a great many others make up a Company for a large ſumm. Your ſpeedy anſwer is required by reaſon that the time of Drawing is ſo nigh: And that thoſe who have a mind to joyn with me are impatient till I obtain your anſwer.*

Anſw. By your queſtion it appears as if you either doubted our Capacities in maintaining what we have aſſerted, or that you have, like many others, indeliberately diſpoſed of your money. As to our aſſertions, we can prove it by undeniable réaſons: As by the certainty that attends it: There is in this *Lottery a prize for every 7 ſucceſſive Numbers*, which makes it exceed all others, for if a man put in 7 pound here he is ſure to recover 5 pound at leaſt, and has the ſame hazard for a Prize of 1 thouſand pound, 5 hundred pound, and ſuch like great ſumms, which certainty he has not in any other *Lottery*, and rather more, by reaſon there is but 6 Blanks to one Prize; he has moreover, the certainty that his Numbers are not kept out, as has been alledged againſt ſome Adventures. This is enough to convince any rational man that it exceeds any that has yet been publiſhed: beſides there is another great advantage in it, and that is, that he who takes out 4, 5, or 6 Tickets, may almoſt aſſure himſelf of a Prize, for that there muſt inevitably be 1 Prize in 7 Numbers, it's very hard if he that has the two thirds or three fourths of the ſeven don't get the Prize from the inferiour Numbers.

Queſt. 3. *I have heard ſuch as lead a ſolitary life diſtinguiſhed into divine, ſavage, humane, and civil perſons; and being my ſelf addicted to a retired life, deſire you'd give me a ſhort account of their difference.*

Anſw. Thoſe have been thought to forſake the world upon a divine account, who have imagined themſelves, through a ſupernatural inſtinct, induced to quit the Commerce of mankind, that they might be the more free from all temptations, and have the greater liberty, without interruption, to contemplate upon God, and the preſent and future ſtate of the Soul. And ſuch as through an averſion to man have retired into deſerts, are thoſe who may properly be called *Savages.* The humane, thoſe who live in the Country with their families; and the Civil, ſuch men who tho they live in Cities, make but little Noiſe, and do not much frequent the world.

Queſt. 4. *I know it has been an opinion long received, that there have been* Sybils (*but in what Number has not, as I can find, ever yet been agreed on*;) *and that thoſe Prophecies under their Names was a truth, and not a fiction. This I received as well as others, till reading an Author the other day who aſcribes all the writings under their Names to one, and tho he ſeems not to doubt but that there were ſuch things written, yet he affirms, they all proceeded from one perſon; I deſire to know what may be ſaid for it, and if there can be any good reaſons given, or Authorities brought to prove it likely that there was but one* Sybil?

Anſw. 'Tis true the Learned have been of diverſe opinions about the Number of the *Sybils*, and have very much contradicted one another about it; ſome believing there were ten, others four, others three, and ſome again that there were but two of them, ſome Naming them after one manner, and ſome after another. 'Tis very probable the original of theſe contrarieties was occaſion'd from the Authors, (who writ upon this matter) only collecting ſome paſſages from *Varro*, *Pauſanius*, *Lactantius*, and others, without making juſt reflections upon them, and conſidering wherein they had confounded the *Sybils* with other Propheteſſes. Thoſe who have moſt confidently aſſerted there was but one *Sybil*, endeavour firſt to ſhew that ſhe was a *Greek*, and think it ſufficiently proved becauſe all the *Oracles* attributed to them were writen in *Greek*, ſince 'tis not probable that women born in *Caldea*, *Phrygia*, and *Italy* ſhou'd think of writing in *Greek*, or even that they cou'd do it; except it were ſuppoſed that Heaven had communicated the gift of Tongues with that of Prophecy to them. From thence they concluds that if there were many *Sybils*, they were all *Greeks*, and that to have the moſt certain knowledge of it we muſt refer our ſelves to the Authors of that Nation: Upon which they alledge *Plato*, *Plutarch*, and *Chryſoſtom*, who have diſtinguiſhed the *Sybil* from other Propheteſſes, and only ſpeak of her as of a ſingle perſon. And in anſwer to the Teſtimony of *Varro*, who ſpeaks of ten *Sybils*, they ſay he was a man of great reading but little Judgment, who to enlarge his Collections, heapt together a thouſand inſipid ſtories, and an infinite Number of Fables: That even he himſelf will not warrant all he relates; and in this ſeems to be of an other opinion in his preface to the books he has writ of Agriculture. That *Cicero* never ſpoke of the *Sybil* but in the ſingular Number, who was too well acquainted with the opinions of his own time to have forgot in his book of *Divination* the opinion which is attributed to *Varro*; if he had either thought it worth his while to have mention'd it, or this Author had been a man of great reputation. To theſe teſtimonies they add that of *Pliny*, and diſcover the overſight of *Panvinius* and *Vives*, who make this Author ſay there were ſtatues of three *Sybils* in *Rome*, whereas *Pliny* only ſpeaks of three ſtatues of the *Sybil*; and that if this conſequence was good, we might as well ſay there were three hundred and ſixty *Demetrius*'s, becauſe this great man had ſo many ſtatues erected for him at *Athens*. And to *Lactantius*, *Servius*, *Iſidore*, *Gyraldus*, and the other *Grammarians* who will have this to be an Apellative Name, which was given to all women who foretold any thing of the time to come, they oppoſe the Authority of the more antient Authors, as *Plato*, *Zenophon*, *Herodotus*, *Hyginus*, *Plutarch*, *Arrian*, and *Pauſanius*, who all ſpeaking of many Propheteſſes never give them the Name of *Sybil*. They likewiſe think that the Argument drawn from the *Etymology* of the Name of *Sybil* has no force, the original of this word being much diſputed, and altho it ſhou'd properly ſignify a Propheteſs, that wou'd be no proof but it might

might alſo be the proper Name of a woman, ſince there are many perſons, who have been Named *King*, *Maſter*, *Clark*, and there was one in *Greece* who was Named *Anthropos*, a man. In anſwer to that place of *Ariſtotle* where he ſpeaks of the *Sybils* in the plural Number, they ſay it might very well have been a fault of the Copyiſt, in writing, Σίβυλλαι for Σίβυλλα: This they maintain from an ancient Latin verſion which one of the Commentators of this Philoſopher made uſe of, where *Sybilla* is tranſlated in the ſingular Number.

Queſt. 5. *A Gloveſeller in the City ſome few months ſince miſſing ſome Guinies out of his Till: finding they were picked out by Art with birdlime, charges his maid ſervant with the Robery; ſhe denying it, he ſends for two of his Friends; (after they had conſulted) they examin the maid with many threatnings of a Conſtable,* Newgate *and* Tyburn, *&c. unleſs ſhe would confeſs and reſtore the Guinies; one of his Friends tells her ſhe was ſeen to commit the Robery: this accuſation was to force a confeſſion from the poor maid; tho ſhe yet declares her innocency; they get an acquaintance of theirs to repreſent a Conſtable, who comes and threatens her with* Newgate *and* Tyburn, *as they had done before; he carries her to* Newgate, *having firſt informed the Turnkey with their Deſign; and their ſhews her the Priſoners, brings fetters, pretending to put them on her, there terrifies her in a ſhameful manner, pretending they would hang her; when all this would not make her plead guilty, the pretended Conſtable carries her back to her maſters, where, after many threats, he turns her out of Doors at eleven a clock at night to ſeek her lodging where ſhe could find it. Since this, a perſon being ſeized and commited to* Newgate, *for picking a Gloveſellers Till in* Holborn, *with birdlime, has confeſſed to this other man, he was the perſon that picked his Till; ſince which her maſter has not ſo much honeſty as to give her any ſatisfaction, ſhe having no friends to aſſiſt her; Gentlemen, this is real matter of fact, and can be proved with much more, which for brevity ſake I omit; whether an Action will not be good againſt the maſter, his friend, who ſaid ſhe was ſeen to take the Guinies, the pretended Conſtable and the Turnkey of* Newgate, *or which of them? We beg your ſpeedy anſwer.*

Anſw. If ſhe can prove a real damage in reputation, or from any one or all of theſe perſons, ſhe has a juſt cauſe enough, but that is not ſufficient to induce her to proſecute them, ſince where 'tis poor 'tis commonly ſtarved. Her maſter is indeed obliged to give her ſome ſatisfaction, all having been done upon his account, but if he is not honeſt enough to do it of himſelf, 'twill be difficult to force him.

Advertiſement.

☞ *The Writing Engine*, for taking ſeveral Copies of the ſame thing at once, invented by *Mr. Geo. Kidpath*, being now brought to perfection by the aſſiſtance of *Mr. Alexander Irwin*, Clockmaker, in St. *Martins-lane*, over-againſt the Church, ſuch as have occaſion for any of the ſaid Engines, may ſee the ſame at *Mr. George Kidpaths*, at the *Blue Ball* in *Little Newport-ſtreet*, near *Leiceſter-fields*, and be accommodated, according to agreement, with Engines for 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 Copies.

The new Monthly Chance, wherein is No Blanks, for 1000*l.* Ready Money. The *Adventurer* has an impoſſibility of loſing all his money in this. There will be 4000 Tickets delivered out at 5*s.* *per* Ticket, which amounts to 1000*l.* and will be divided into 400 Lots, which are as follows,

No.			l.
1	at	100 *l.*	100
1	at	50 *l.*	50
2	at	30 *l.*	60
3	at	20 *l.*	60
4	at	10 *l.*	40
5	at	7 *l.*	35
12	at	5 *l.*	60
20	at	4 *l.*	80
101	at	2 *l.*	202
251	at	1 *l.* 5 *s.*	313
400			1000

There is 15 *s.* over, which ſhall be given *gratis* to the laſt ten Numbers drawn. And for ſatisfaction of the *Adventurers*, it ſhall be drawn quite full; The manner of drawing ſhall be as follows.

The books being made into 3 Columns, and all printed, the one to be cut out for the *Adventurer*, and the middle margin will be Rolled up with the 10 Numbers, which make 400 Rolls, which will be put into a box, and drawn againſt 400 benefits in the other box; ſo he that hath a Number'd Ticket in that Roll, ſhall receive a 10*th* part of the benefit that ſhall happen to ariſe againſt it. He tnat puts in 5*s.* will be ſure to have one half again, only there will be 10 *per cent.* rebated for trouble and charge. It is deſign'd to be drawn the 22*d* of this inſtant *April*, at the *Barbadoes Coffee-houſe* in *Exchange-Ally*, *Cornhil*, and drawn quite full, ahd benefits will be printed as ſoon as drawn. for ſatisfaction of all abſent.

Tickets and Propoſals may be had at Mr. *Layfield* the *White-horſe*, *Lombard-ſtreet*, Mr. *Harriſon* the *Hen* and *Chickens*, Mr. *Barington* the *Roſe* & *Crown*, Mr. *Knott* the 3 Golden *Cocks*, *Cheap-ſide*, Mr. *Clement* the *George*, *Newgate-ſtreet*, Mr. *de Cayne* without *Biſhops-gate*, Captain *Pits* next the Croſs Keys Tavern, Mr. *Hickens* the *Unicorn* over-againſt *Grays-Inn-Gate* in *Holbourn*, Mr. *Cole* over-againſt St. *Dunſtan's-Church* in *Fleet-ſtreet*, Mr. *Roberts* the *Green-Dragon*, Nr. *Bowman* the *Flower-de-luce* near the *New-Exchange* the *Strand*, Mr. *Coleman* over-againſt the Kings Brew-houſe in St. *Catharines*, Mr. *Wilcock* the *Dial* in the *Minories*, Goldſmiths; Mr. *Lloyd's Coffee-houſe*, in *Lombard-ſtreet*, *Mr. Edward Aldwin*, the *Barbadoes* Coffee-houſe in *Exchange-Alley*, *Mr. Peters* in *Exeter-Change* in the *Strand*, *Mr. Jonathan Millner* in *Popes-head-Alley* near the *Royal-Exchange*. *Mr. Honlcomb* the *Bear-Tavern*, near *Bloomsbury*.

At the *Kings-Arms*, in the *Minories*, being the late Dwelling houſe of Mr. *George Fiſher*, Gunſmith, Deceaſed, is to be ſold all ſorts of Fine and Ordinary Arms, *viz. Birding-Guns*, *Carbines*, *Piſtols*, *Muſquets*, *Muſquettoons*, *Muſquettoon-Piſtols*, at very reaſonable rates, and likewiſe the houſe to be let, being very Convenient for any ſhop-keeper. Inquire at the place aforeſaid.

Theſe are to give Notice, That there is a Fair granted to be kept in *Brooksfield Market place*, near the Eaſt corner of *Hide-Park* in *Middleſex*, for all ſorts of Goods, and the two firſt days will be for Live Cattle and Leather. It will begin on the firſt day of *May* next, 1695. and continue till the 16th day, and ſo will be held Yearly at the ſame time and place.

Such Perſons as are willing to Buy or Sell Blank or benefit Tickets in the *Million Lottery*, may have ready mony for either, or be furniſhed with either, at the *Mercury Office*, at the ſign of the *Trinity-Houſe* in *Finch Lane*, *London*, every day, from 1 a Clock to 4 in the Afternoon; Attendance being given thoſe 3 hours only.

As alſo *Orphans* money in the *Chamber* of *London*.

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